

## SHORTAGE IN COAL; PRICES ARE SOARING

Not Enough Cars to Handle  
City and New England Sup-  
plies, Say Roads.

## COLD SNAP REAL MENACE

Big Jump Certain if One  
Comes Unexpectedly—Expert  
Explains Situation.

As explained by railroad men yesterday, the coal situation in this city has become serious and threatens to be critical within the next few days. Supplies have shrunk, retailers have had to put up unusual premiums to the wholesalers, and the public is to pay. Not only New York city, but New England and the Northwest are complaining of the shortage of domestic grades of coal. One reason for the decrease in the local supply is that there are not enough coal cars to handle consignments from the coal fields. The Interstate Commerce Commission has decided that shippers of crushed stone, ore, and the like are entitled to the use of the "hardship" cars—the roofless type which has been used in previous years for coal, so for the first time in years there is no supply of cars exclusively for coal. It was estimated that on account of this and because of labor troubles in the mining regions New York city is getting one-third less coal than it could absorb at this time of year.

**Factory Buyers Bid Up Prices.**  
Traffic managers and purchasing agents for many important industrial concerns in New England have been lately trying in vain to get a sufficient supply of coal for the early winter. Their bidding has sent prices up.

The New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, which takes most of the coal into New England, is suffering from freight congestion and much coal which would be available is tied up on sidings. The Lehigh Valley, the Pennsylvania, the Jersey Central, the Lackawanna and the Erie, which handle the bulk of the coal shipped to New York by rail, also experiencing congestion. At the Erie offices the statement was made that it is difficult to get freight cars unloaded quickly enough to keep coal cars moving.

F. W. Seward, of the Coal Trade Journal, has suggested that the consumer take only as much coal as he needs for a short time and thus there will be enough for all. The retail dealer, though, is taking good care that his supply is being divided up into small lots.

"In the New York market and hereabouts," said Mr. Seward, "the policy of patience would seem to be the one to pursue at present and for the next two or three months. There are so many roads leading from the mines to tide-water that it is not probable the supply will be short in all quarters at any one time, and if consumers are satisfied to take their coal about as needed they can get their necessary ton-

nage without panic prices and famine conditions."

"Conditions in 1915," said Mr. Seward, "have been different from any recent year except 1902, when the coal strike was on."

**Forced to Buy at Premium.**  
"While it is true that the large producing interests have made no change in the wholesale price the fact remains that these concerns have not been able to supply the retailers with all the tonnage they ask. The dealers are obliged to buy from the independents at a premium. From 10 to 20 per cent. of the coal has been bought at a premium of from \$1 to \$2, and the average cost of the whole tonnage has been augmented."

The man who has to buy coal for his home must pay from \$7 to \$7.75 a ton in New York city and vicinity. For suburbanites the price goes up still more. This applies to stove and nut coal. The dealers assert that the premiums which they must pay to the independent wholesalers or producers, on top of the mine price, more than justify these advances. In the event of a cold snap quotations would be forced still higher, some say to \$8 or more.

## ACTOR KILLS VISITOR AND ENDS OWN LIFE

Frank Kerns Shoots Stephen  
Clifford at 231 W. 43d St.  
—Warns Boys.

Frank Kerns, an actor, who has been living for the last three weeks in a theatrical boarding house at 231 West Forty-third street, shot and killed Stephen Clifford of Bayville, L. I., also an actor, when the latter called on him yesterday afternoon. Then Kerns shot himself in the head, dying instantly.

In letters found in the room Kerns makes it plain that he had contemplated the deed for several weeks. He also wrote that he hoped the act would be a lesson to boys to avoid the drug habit. Clifford had been in the habit of visiting the actor at the rooming house. He came yesterday afternoon at 2 o'clock and went directly to Kerns's room. Half an hour after he had entered the room Charles Whalen, who runs the boarding house, heard four shots fired in rapid succession.

Whalen opened the door of his room in the rear and saw Clifford stagger out of Kerns's room. He stumbled into the hall and fell, groaning "He shot me!" Before the landlord could rush into the front room he heard another shot. A revolver was in his hand. Dr. Gable of Polytechnic Hospital was called and rushed Clifford, who had three bullet wounds in his chest and abdomen, to the hospital. The wounded man died before he could be operated on, however.

Inspector Cray of the detective bureau inspected the room and questioned Whalen and other persons in the house. None could tell him anything of Kerns or Clifford. In the room besides the letters was found a piece of paper containing Clifford's name and the address, "Edgewater Terrace, Bayville."

In one of the letters addressed to "My dear family and parents" the dead man asks that his body be cremated instead of being taken to Lakehurst for burial. There is no other clue as to the name or address of his parents. Both men were about 35 years old.

## VILLA DEFEATS 1,000 CARRANZA TROOPS

Infiltrates Heavy Losses in Battle  
at San Andres, El  
Paso Hears.

## SAID TO HOLD NAMIKUIPA

Armed Mexicans Aid Gen. Pershing's Men, Killing  
Four Bandits.

El Paso, Tex., Oct. 16.—Information that a force of 1,000 Carranza soldiers were defeated with heavy losses in a battle with Villistas at San Andres on Saturday was brought to El Paso tonight by passengers from Chihuahua. Villa troops in small bands were seen by passengers near the Cumbre tunnel, where a score of Americans were killed several months ago.

Villa, according to Gen. Trevino at Chihuahua, is in the neighborhood of Temoeachi with about 800 armed and equipped soldiers and a thousand impressed recruits of all ages, who lack arms, ammunition and mounts. Gen. Trevino stated that Villa is not paying his men and is holding them through fear. He denied the report circulated here that Villa with 4,000 men had seized the southern section of the Mexican Northwestern Railroad and was running its trains and in complete control of the territory northwest of San Antonio.

It was learned here that there has been a considerable troop movement north from Chihuahua city in the past few days. Although some Villista forces are concentrating about forty or fifty miles from the American base army officers do not fear an attack upon Gen. Pershing's forces, they say.

Reports that American scouts from Gen. Pershing's advanced base near El Valle have been sent south to Nami-kuipa have been denied by both Mexican and American military authorities. Passengers who arrived over the Mexican Northwestern road say Villa's men now hold Namiquipa.

American refugees from the Madera district of western Chihuahua claim to have recognized some of the officers and soldiers who returned with Gen. Francisco Gonzalez on Friday night from Casas Grandes as former members of the Carranza garrison at Madera. This is taken as an indication that Madera was evacuated before the advance of the Villa troops.

Armed Mexicans have cooperated with the American punitive expedition unwittingly and much to the surprise of Gen. Pershing.

It was reported to field headquarters from the squadron of cavalry now guarding the American Mormon colony at Colonia Juarez that Manuel Gutierrez, who holds Pearson, had killed four bandits who called themselves Villa soldiers and who robbed the Taylor brothers of Colonia Juarez of several hundred dollars Thursday night.

Gutierrez can muster about 150 followers. About a month ago he took to the hills when the Casas Grandes garrison attempted to disarm his band.

## U. S. STEEL SHARES RETURN.

High Prices Here Lead Foreign  
Holders to Sell.

Recent advances in United States Steel stock have brought a large amount of it back home. On June 30 there were 537,809 shares of common held abroad, a decrease of 57,448 shares, or 14 per cent., over the holdings on September 30. This amounts to about 10 1/2 per cent. of the total stock issue, and the loss from the high level of March 31, 1914, amounts to nearly 60 per cent.

On September 30 the preferred stock held abroad amounted to 171,096 shares, compared with 238,361 on June 30, 1914, or 282,091 on March 31 and 312,882 on June 30, 1914.

On the same date brokers and bankers held 2,829,800 common shares, or 55.7 per cent. of the total issue. Investors held 2,537,225 shares, or 44.33 per cent. On June 30 brokers held 2,681,161 shares of common, or 52.75 per cent., and investors 2,401,864 shares, or 47.25 per cent.

The following table gives the foreign countries in which were held on September 30 the largest totals of United States Steel shares:

Country	Common	Preferred
Canada	2,400	37,232
England	214,224	61,080
France	44,565	29,131
Holland	236,107	25,444

## JUSTICE LEVY HITS MUNICIPAL COURTS

Denounces Methods of Oper-  
ation as "Unscientific and  
Slipshod."

Methods of conducting the Municipal Courts were denounced yesterday by Chief Justice Aaron J. Levy, president of the Board of Municipal Court Justices, as "most unscientific, slipshod and inadequately prepared for the work the court has to do."

Justice Levy made this statement in appearing before the Board of Estimate's budget subcommittee to ask that his request for allowance for a private secretary, a typewriting copyist and a messenger be favorably acted on. He requested that the private secretary be exempt from civil service rules because he wants some one he can trust.

He complained that he does not get cooperation from the sources where he should get it, and that he wants a private secretary who can do investigating for him.

"The Municipal Court is the poor man's court, and a higher justice should be manifested there than in the Supreme Court of the United States," he said.

"Stenographers and others have willfully deceived me. I have no one in whom I can repose the trust of going out and examining the facts for me and reporting back truthfully. If I send out clerks to get statistics for a report to the comptroller, they send me a garbled report, unintelligent and incomplete in every way."

He said the Municipal Courts work longer than the police courts. His request for a private secretary at \$1,800 a year was allowed. The department asked for \$900,000 for next year; for this year it received \$925,400. The subcommittee will recommend \$928,860.

## GAIMARI'S SLAYER ACCUSES ROFRANO

Montimagno Testifies That  
Latter Gave Him \$500 to  
Commit Murder.

## GIVES DETAILS OF CRIME

Witness Identifies Accused in  
a Dramatic Manner and  
Admits Guilt.

Gaetano Montimagno, the little boot-black under sentence of death for killing Michael Gaimari, for whose death Michael A. Rofrano is now being tried, took the stand last night and laid the foundations for the story he will tell against the former Deputy Street Cleaning Commissioner, Tommy, as Montimagno is called by his club associates, told of Rofrano giving him \$500 to stab "somebody," the somebody being Mike Gaimari.

A lively picture of election day of 1914 in the Second district was also sketched by Montimagno, as he told how Rofrano urged him to bring over all his Brooklyn friends to help hold up the Rofrano prestige in the district, and how Rofrano picked out a revolver from a large stock in the clubhouse and gave it to Tommy with instructions to shoot if trouble began.

Montimagno was the sensation at the end of a colorful day. Night sessions have been ordered at the request of the jury. The jurors were sagging in their seats when the stocky young slayer, his face white, climbed into the witness chair and turned toward his interpreter.

**Montimagno Talks Freely.**  
His manner was far different from that of the convicts who have preceded him. They hesitated and were obviously pondering over their replies. Montimagno snapped his out with Italian ex-prose and the indifferent air of one who feels that it matters little what course he takes in the last day of his life. At 21, with only five years in this country, Montimagno's life has been crowded with sorrows and tragedy.

Almost his first answer was an indifferent admission that he had shot and killed Gaimari, and when he was asked if he was tried in the same court room and found guilty he half turned in his chair, looked at the painting of Justice and then carefully nodded that he had.

He told of his meeting with Rocks Cornell and Frank Pennimore in Coney Island in 1912, and of his first visit in September, 1914, to the Street Cleaning Club. He recalled the names of those whom he met there, many of whom are now in jail, and of his seeing Rofrano for the first time.

**Identifies Rofrano.**  
When he was asked if he saw Rofrano in court he leaned forward and jabbed his hand quickly toward Rofrano, and their eyes met in a long stare that might mean many things.

Then Montimagno testified how he told Rocks that he had an appointment with a woman to run away with, but

had no money and of how Rocks took him to Rofrano, who let him have \$100.

"He said, 'If you need more, ask me and I will give it to you,'" said Montimagno. "He said, 'Go with Rocks and Pennimore and have a good time and do what they tell you to do.' He also told me to come and see him in November because then will be an election and I need some men. He said, 'Now don't forget, and I went away.'"

Then came election day of 1914 and Montimagno went back to the club and saw a man who he learned later was Gene Driscoll, one of Rofrano's allies in his political war on Tom Foley. "I am pleased that you came this day," Montimagno said. Rofrano told him, "because I need men." I told him that I had been in Brooklyn and that I incur \$200 debt. He said, "All right, Tommy, I can give you more than \$200 if you favor me. I said, 'I thank you, what is it you wish, speak?' He said, 'You have acquaintances in Brooklyn.' I said, 'Yes.' He said, 'To-day is election day, can you bring some friends?'

"Then he said, 'After this day will you do me a favor?' I said, 'Yes, why not, what is it?' He said, 'Have you got the courage to stab somebody?' and I said, 'Yes, why not?' He then said, 'All right.' Then he said, 'Here are \$500, \$200 to pay your debt and \$300; it is a gift to you—your choice.' I said, 'Give me one,' and he gave me a gun. I placed it inside my pants and he said to me, 'Now go out and if you see any trouble shoot.'"

**New Injunction Given.**  
Tommy started for Brooklyn, but beneath the bridge he met a woman he had seen at Coney Island, and after passing some time with her he went back to the club. Then Rofrano again told him that it was election day, and that if he saw anybody make any trouble around the block to strike out "right and left."

"He said, 'Have you got a revolver?' I said, 'No.' He said, 'Here are two revolvers, take your choice.' I said, 'Give me one,' and he gave me a gun. I placed it inside my pants and he said to me, 'Now go out and if you see any trouble shoot.'"

Montimagno said he went out with Rocks and Pennimore and they walked around the block with the other men of the club for the rest of the day, but nothing happened to give him a chance to use his weapon.

Tommy went to Schenectady with the woman, and after a month returned to Brooklyn just before Christmas. In a shop he met Pennimore and Cornell and they began to upbraid him, he said.

"Pennimore said: 'You have done a nice thing. You took the money from the boss and were going to stab somebody and you haven't stabbed anybody.' Rocks said, 'I can't face the boss.' Rocks was mad at me."

There Tommy's story ended for the time being, as court was adjourned, but he will take it up at that point to-day and carry it to the time when he shot Gaimari.

**A Reluctant Witness.**  
Pauline Samuels, with whom Rocks Cornell lived at 5211 New Utrecht avenue, proved a reluctant witness. She didn't remember the comings and goings of the men who were mixed up in the feud of the Second district and the killing of Gaimari. Although Rocks slept with his revolver under his pillow and she had seen it many times she was not sure that the revolver with which Gaimari was killed was the same one or not. She thought Cornell's revolver was smaller and not quite so heavy.

She was equally backward about remembering the telephone calls Cornell made from her apartment. She knew that he called Rofrano, but did not know how often.

James Seraphino, who was official gun carrier for Rocks Cornell when that per-

son might be in need of a weapon, and who now takes care of the cows and chickens in Sing Sing, and Tony La Salle were the other witnesses of the day. They testified to minor points, corroborating the previous testimony of Joe La Salle.

## BIG BALANCE AGAINST U. S.

Our Purchases From Tropics Over  
a Billion in a Year.

One direction in which the United States is losing instead of gaining money in foreign trade is pointed out by the foreign trade department of the National City Bank. Our imports from tropical countries during the last fiscal year were valued at more than a billion dollars, while the purchases of our goods aggregated less than half that amount.

Imports of sugar show the largest increase among imports from tropical countries, the total being valued at \$300,000,000 last year, compared with \$257,000,000 in 1915 and \$197,000,000 in 1912. The figures for rubber and rubber substitutes are given as \$160,000,000, compared with \$84,000,000 last year and \$101,000,000 in 1915. The former high record imports of coffee are put at \$114,000,000 for last year, compared with \$109,000,000 in 1915. Cocoa imports for the two years compare as \$25,000,000 and \$23,000,000; tea, \$20,000,000 and \$18,000,000; raw silk, \$124,000,000 and \$101,000,000, and cotton as \$40,000,000 and \$25,000,000.

## Dr. Maxwell Invited to Chicago.

Dr. William H. Maxwell, City Superintendent of Schools, now on sick leave, was recently invited to assist in an investigation of Chicago public schools but was obliged to decline because of his poor health. The invitation was extended by the City Council of Chicago.

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